Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 20 March, 1862.

Dear May,

I have engaged the Cooper Institute for Thursday evening. I will secure it for Wednesday evening also. When I get Wendell Phillips's and Theodore Tilton's consent to speak, as I presume I shall. The Trustees of the Church of the Puritans have not met since my application was put in, but members assure me that their action will be favorable.

It is well to ask Dr. Tyng to speak. The invitation should co-

tain a careful explanation of
the freedom of our platform—
a distinct statement that in coming
to it he need endorse nobody
but himself. But there's not
one chance in ten that he will
consent to come; and that
being so, I venture to remind
you that the Rev. Robert
M. Hatfield (a very eloquent
Methodist and a noble fellow)
was engaged to speak last
year, when we concluded to
hold no meeting. ~~There~~ Should
he not be invited again? Then I
think Rev. James A. Thome of
Cleveland would be a "trump"

for us. He's a capital speaker, and very radical in his anti-slavery.

I confess I think it a mistake to invite Anna E. Dickinson this year. She's too inexperienced, spasmodic and uncertain. We ought to bring into battle now, especially in New York, our proved guns and our heaviest — nothing less than 10-inch Columbiads. I'm sure that McKim, who likes Miss Dickinson well, will agree with me that we ought not to pay our money for her, or to give her time to speak this

year, in view of the complicated
issues to be met and the need
of statesmen on our platform.
Remember we are to have but
two public meetings. There's no need
of a woman now as a test, and I
would not put one on who is
not the peer of our best speakers.
Mary Grew would be a fitter person
than Miss Dickinson, by far.

Yours, truly,

Oliver Johnson

I take for granted that you
agree this year, as you did last,
to the 10 cent admission fee
for Tuesday evening.

MS. B. 1.6 v.9, p.22